

CONFIDENTIALNPIC/P&DS/D/6-800
2 March 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Comparator Error Analysis Program

REFERENCE: IPD Memo to TID dated 17 January 1966

1. In the referenced memo, the following statement was made:
 "The entire difficulty on this project could have been completely avoided if the project monitor fulfilled his role and maintained full awareness of the program and needs of the user. In this case the project monitor, [] of P&DS, was completely out of the picture. Also, it was found that the go-ahead for the programming effort by [] did not originate from anyone in the Agency. This points up a very sensitive and potentially dangerous problem. The programming effort on [] part did not come to light until several weeks after it has occurred. Even at this time no attempt by the user was made to quickly adjust to this unilateral decision. Because of the vagueness and indecisiveness, many critical man-hours were wasted on both sides".

2. This statement is of considerable concern to P&DS since it does not clearly represent the facts of the situation.

3. The facts are as follows:

A. We are not directly involved in the [] programming referred to above. We do have a Contract [] with the [] not [] has been the contract monitor since its inception. He also has been the project monitor of the combined [] on "P.I. Performance and Techniques" since August of 1965 when he relieved [] of that assignment. [] only connection with this program has been that, as our "back-up" man on [] he has on occasion sat in on meetings with (or in the absence of) []

B. Our contract with [] deals mainly with the acquisition of ground truth for the [] Program and covers primarily the services of [] It does not cover the services of a programmer or mathematician; e.g.,

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[redacted] and/or his staff. We could neither authorize nor pay for such services. These services were authorized by TID and will be paid for under their Contract [redacted] for "Data Reduction Services". It is unreasonable to assume that "the go-ahead did not originate from anyone in the Agency". The contractor could not be paid for his services under such an arrangement.

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C. We were aware of the [redacted] programming effort; however, no P&DS personnel requested Autometrics to do programming. In fact, [redacted] acting for [redacted] (in his absence) initiated a standard NPIC FM 218 on 27 October 1965 requesting these services of IPD in response to a request from [redacted]

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[redacted] If TID chooses to pursue a parallel effort, that is their prerogative and not the responsibility of our monitors.

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[redacted]
Chief, Interpretation Systems Section
Development Branch

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Distribution:

Orig - Project File
1 - DB Chrono

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NPIC/P&DS/DB: [redacted] (2 Mar 66)

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PROJECT ASSIGNMENT RECORD

DATE: 20 Jan 66

TIME:

FROM: R2

SUBJECT: 1 PD Memo dtd 17 Jan 66

1. Prepare reply to paragraph

Coordinate w/ R2 25X1

IR FORM 241A (9/65)

ASSIGNED TO	SUBJECT	NUMBER	DUE DATE	DATE COMPLETED
	1 PD MEMO 17 JAN re Error P. 1. Proj.		25 Jan	

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17 January 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Technical Intelligence Division, NPIC
THROUGH: Chief, Information Processing Division, NPIC
SUBJECT: Comparator Error Analysis Program

1. A meeting was held in TID/TAB to discuss whether or not [redacted] FORTRAN program should be used in place of IPD's finished program. In attendance were [redacted]
[redacted] TID/TAB; [redacted]
[redacted] IPD/PRE. The discussion brought out the main differences between the two programs.

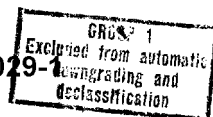
a. [redacted] math model takes into account the film shrinkage of the control plate copy. IPD's model did not take this into account because no requirement was ever levied upon the project.

b. [redacted] program output formats do not conform with the user's wishes.

2. A careful review and study of the FORTRAN program shows that with a small amount of additional programming, the features in [redacted] model can be built into IPD's version. This step has several advantages because IPD's program is fully documented (i.e., user's manual, operations manual, and program documentation) and much more sophisticated in its error detection and analysis. It would take longer to fully document [redacted] model, revise the error detection and output than it would to upgrade IPD's version.

3. It is my recommendation that IPD's version be upgraded because of the existence of a much more complete problem definition and documentation.

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SUBJECT: Comparator Error Analysis Program

4. The entire difficulty on this project could have been completely avoided if the project monitor fulfilled his role and maintained full awareness of the program and needs of the user. In this case the project monitor, [redacted] of P&DS, was completely out of the picture. Also, it was found that the go-ahead for the programming effort by [redacted] did not originate from anyone in the Agency. This points up a very sensitive and potentially dangerous problem. The programming effort on [redacted] part did not come to light until several weeks after it had occurred. Even at this time no attempt by the user was made to quickly adjust to this unilateral decision. Because of the vagueness and indecisiveness, many critical man-hours were wasted on both sides.

5. It is strongly recommended that all TID computer needs be sent to IPD for full coordination and monitoring. The difficulty in this case was somewhat minor, but as stated before it points up a very potential problem area, and unless positive steps are taken much time and money can be wasted. I feel, therefore, that the recommendation stated above has considerable merit.

[redacted]
Chief, Programming Branch, IPD

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee
1 - Asst for P&D
2 - IPD/PRB